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TO:**Name:** Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Group Art Unit 3772/Examiner Michael Brown**Firm:** U.S. Patent & Trademark Office**Fax No.:** 571-273-8300**Subject:** U.S. Patent Application No. 09/497,590

Gary Karlin Michelson

Filed: June 6, 2000

**APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD MEMBER
HAVING A PASSAGE WITH A NON-CIRCULAR
CROSS SECTION FOR PROVIDING PROTECTED
ACCESS TO THE SPINE (as amended)**

Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000

Customer No. 22882

Confirmation No.: 7688

FROM:**Name:** Thomas H. Martin, Esq.**Phone No.:** 330-877-2277**No. of Pages (including this):** 2**Date:** October 31, 2007**Confirmation Copy to Follow:** NO

Message:**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that the attached Status Inquiry is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 31, 2007.


Sandra L. Blackmon

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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Confirmation No.: 7688
Gary Karlin Michelson)	
Serial No.: 09/497,590)	Group Art Unit: 3772
Filed: June 6, 2000)	Examiner: Michael Brown
For: APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD)	
MEMBER HAVING A PASSAGE)	
WITH A NON-CIRCULAR CROSS)	
SECTION FOR PROVIDING)	
PROTECTED ACCESS TO THE)	
SPINE (as amended))	

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATUS INQUIRY

In response to the May 23, 2007 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, a Reply was filed with respect to the above-identified application on June 4, 2007. To date, the undersigned has yet to receive a further communication from the Examiner. Please advise the undersigned on the current status of the above-identified application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-3726.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: October 31, 2007By: Thomas H. Martin
Registration No. 34,383

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